Standards of Public Land Health
Evaluation of 63096 COYOTE SPRINGS NORTH Allotment
[11/23/2009]

The Roswell Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 1 study site within 63096 COYOTE SPRINGS NORTH. The assessments looked at the Soil/Site Stability, Hydrologic Function and Biotic Integrity indicators within the vicinity of each study site. Existing monitoring data was incorporated into and in support of the field assessment. The summary of each assessment is attached and shown in the following table.

Study Area or Assessment Area	UPLAND			BIOTIC			RIPARIAN		
	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet
63096-IDSU-A140 (*)	X			X			N/A		

The (*) indicates that the assessment had one or more indicator(s) rated moderate/extreme or extreme. These indicators are:

- Invasive Plants

These indicators by themselves are not enough to rate the site as not meeting a standard but may warrant future monitoring.

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on the Coyote Springs North allotment, 63096. Ten of these assessed soil site stability, 11 hydrologic functions, and 13 assessed biotic integrity. These qualitative assessments in conjunction with quantitative information gathered from previous data collected at the trend study plot location within the allotment was utilized to make rangeland health determinations. Quantitative evaluations are performed by the Roswell Field Office interdisciplinary teams, which include some or all of the following: ground and vegetative cover and composition, production, frequency and ecological condition. The collections which were initiated in the late 1970's/early 1980's, are scheduled and conducted approximately every 5 years. This allotment is in the "C" (Custodial) category.

This allotment contains 40 acres of public land. The study is located on a Loamy CP-# ecological site. Only one of the indicators rated a "Moderate to Extreme" degree of departure from the ecological site description, Invasive Plants. This rating was due to the encroachment of yucca. Two of the remaining indicators were rated as "Moderate" – Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion and Soil Surface Loss or Degradation. The remaining indicators were rated at either

“None to Slight” or “Slight to Moderate”. There are no riparian areas on the public land within this allotment.

Recommendations: With the majority of the indicators falling in the “None to Slight” or “Slight to Moderate” category, this allotment is rated as “Meeting” the stand for Rangeland Health. Continue the rangeland monitoring studies to insure proper stocking rates are maintained and that the perennial grass cover and good plant composition remains. Evaluate potential for brush (yucca) control and complete a land treatment if warranted.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet			
SITE 63096-IDSU-A140			
Legal Land Desc	NWSW 7 0060S 0110E Meridian 23	Acreage	40
Ecosite	070CY109NM LOAMY CP-3	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13050003040 WHITE OAKS		
Observers	TRAUTNER, BURGER	Observation Date	11/23/2009
County Soil Survey	NM632 LINCOLN	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	025	Soil Taxon Name	HARVEY
Texture Class	NM632 L	Soil Phase	HARVEY-DARVEY
Texture Modifier	NM632 LOAM		
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation		Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Annual Precipitation		NOAA Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation		NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
Disturbances and Animal Use:			

Part 2. Attributes and Indicators

		Departure from Ecological Site Description/Ecological Reference Areas				
Attribute	Indicators	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S H	Rills					X
Comments:						
S H	Water Flow Patterns					X
Comments:						
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes				X	
Comments:						
S H	Bare Ground					X

Comments:	16-25% estimated, ESD=40-50%, some large bare areas are present					
S H	Gullies					X
Comments:						
S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas					X
Comments:						
H	Litter Movement				X	
Comments:	Very little, some gathering around obstructions.					
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion			X		
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation			X		
Comments:						
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff				X	
Comments:	Trending toward Slight to Moderate. The large bare areas will increase runoff.					
S H B	Compaction Layer					X
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups				X	
Comments:	Yucca encroachment.					
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence					X
Comments:						
H B	Litter Amount					X
Comments:	ESD = 15-20%, we estimated on the low end of that.					
B	Annual Production					X
Comments:	ESD = 370-1400 lbs/acre, we estimated about 750 lbs/acre.					
B	Invasive Plants		X			
Comments:	Yucca encroachment.					
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants					X
Comments:						
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts					X
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Habitat				X	

Comments:						
B	Wildlife Populations				X	
Comments:	None observed, but sign is present.					
B	Special Status Species Habitat					
Comments:	None					
B	Special Status Species Populations					
Comments:	None					

Part 3. Summary

A. Indicator Summary - Each of the indicators are associated with one or more of the attributes below. An indicator is placed in a category (columns) above and summed for each of the Standard Attributes.

Standard Attribute		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S	Soil	0	0	2	1	7
H	Hydrologic	0	0	2	3	6
B	Biotic	0	1	2	3	5

B. Attribute Summary. In this table, the Extreme and Extreme to Moderate columns in the table above are merged for the *Does not Meet* column, Moderate becomes *May Need More Info*, and Slight to Moderate and None to Slight merge to form the *Meets* columns. Values from the table are summarized below. Space is provided for rationale of the determination. This space should most certainly be used when the determination by the ID team conflicts with the summarized values. Provide the sources of information that lead to the determination. X out the appropriate box for each attribute to denote final agreed upon determination by the ID team.

Attribute	Rationale	Does Not Meet	May Need More Info	Meets
Soil		0	2	8
Hydrologic		0	2	9
Biotic	The "Moderate to Extreme" Rating is due to yucca encroachment.	1	2	8

Site Notes: Species present include: yucca species, black grama, blue grama, indian ricegrass, ephedra, hairy grama, spike dropseed, cholla, bigelow sage, muhlys, fluff grass, three-awn, unknown forbs. This site looks good, it is authorized for one animal unit. Lots of grass present, which provides good cover and forage. All of the key species are present.

Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 63096 COYOTE SPRINGS NORTH

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (dated January 2001) adopted three Standards for Public Land Health. These are (1) Upland Sites Standard, (2) Biotic Communities, Including Native, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species Standard and (3) Riparian Sites Standard.

The ROD also established a process for the BLM Field Offices for implementation. Through a public participation process, the Roswell Field Office developed and adopted indicators to use in conjunction with existing monitoring data to assess these standards.

Field assessment worksheets and other available data that evaluate the local indicators were completed for this allotment. Based on these assessments, it is my determination that public land within Coyote Springs North, allotment #63096, meets the (1) Upland Sites standard and (2) Biotic Communities, including Native, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species standard. There are no public land Riparian areas on this allotment, therefore this standard was not addressed.

/s/ J. Howard Parman	02/19/2010
Acting Assistant Field Manager	Date